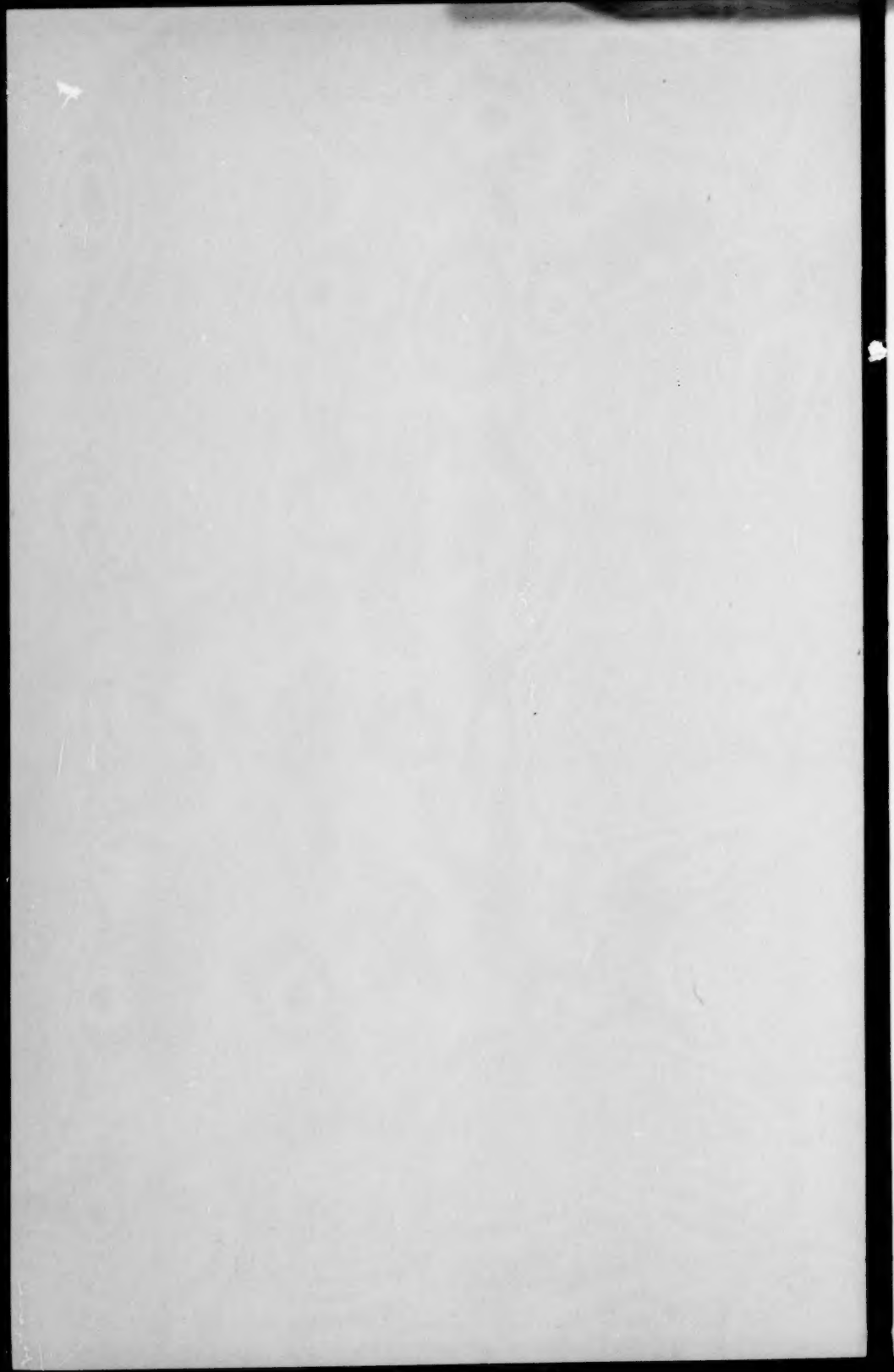


# The Council of Christians and Jews

**REPORT FOR 1954-1955**



# The Council of Christians and Jews

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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## OBJECTS

To combat all forms of religious and racial intolerance. To promote mutual understanding and goodwill between Christians and Jews, and to foster co-operation in educational activities and in social and community service.

### *Presidents*

HIS GRACE THE LORD ARCHBISHOP  
OF CANTERBURY  
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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE RT. REV. THE MODERATOR OF  
THE FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL  
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Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chester, Hampstead, Hull,  
Ilford, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Oxford, Southport,  
South Shields, Sunderland, Willseden.

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KINGSWAY CHAMBERS . 162A STRAND . LONDON . WC2

TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR 9306-7-8

## Foreword

THE Annual Report for the present year covers more than a year's events. In 1954 both the Report and the Meeting at which it should have been presented were postponed in the hope that the relationship of our Council with the Roman Catholic Church might be settled before we reported. To our great disappointment this is still uncertain, and we still carry on in hope of restored co-operation.

Meanwhile the work goes forward on a broad front: internationally in close contact with Councils of Christians and Jews in Europe and in consultation with World Brotherhood; educationally in our survey of textbooks for schools; socially in combating the fortunately rare cases of racial intolerance and generally by the holding of two splendidly successful lectures under the Robert Waley Cohen Memorial Foundation and by many other meetings and local efforts. By such means the Council has carried on its many-sided task.

The change in the outlook of world politics symbolised by the Austrian settlement, the meeting of the Big Four and the Conference of Atomic Scientists has been a vast encouragement for all who believe in the primary importance of human trust and friendliness; and although as we go to press the news from the Middle East looks desperately serious we believe that in the general increase of healthier relationships this crisis may yet be the means of resolving the tragic nexus of problems which has now for so many years occupied the Council's attention.

We send out our Report with gratitude to all our friends, with faith in the value of our efforts and with high hopes for the future.

CHARLES E. RAVEN  
*Chairman of the Executive Committee*

# Report for 1954-1955

## INTRODUCTION

PEACE—the peace for which men long today—is no static virtue to be enjoyed only in some state of academic or cloistered calm. It is not even an end in itself, to be pursued above all else for its own sake only. It is rather a by-product—a dynamic and creative by-product—of the development of good relations between people, whether as individuals or as members of different racial, religious, cultural, social or political groups. And it is precisely with the task of promoting good relations, particularly in the religious and racial fields, that the Council of Christians and Jews is occupied, with, we believe, increasing success.

Not that we have succeeded as yet in touching more than the fringe of an enormous problem. For the task is very far from being an easy one. That intolerance in human relations is a bad thing most people would agree. But not all are satisfied that the advocacy of tolerance is its most effective antidote. For “tolerance” is a word susceptible of differing and sometimes conflicting interpretations. At the one extreme it is used to describe the attitude of *laissez-faire* indifference which is as much the enemy of true tolerance as the attitude of almost contemptuous disdain to which, at the other extreme, it is sometimes also applied.

From such misunderstanding not even the Council itself has been exempt, as we were unexpectedly and painfully made aware when, just over a year ago, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster intimated that he had been instructed by the Holy Office to resign from the Joint-Presidency of the Council and to call for the general withdrawal of Roman Catholic support on the ground that in the judgment of the Holy Office certain of the educational methods employed by the Council “tended to religious indifferentism.”

In the course of discussions which followed the Roman Catholic withdrawal—discussions which took place with the knowledge and approval of the Holy Office—both the Council's representatives and the Roman Catholic representatives made reference to the writing into the Constitution of the following interpretation of the Council's aims by the late Dr. William Temple, then Archbishop of Canterbury:

"My own approach to this matter is governed by the consideration that the effectiveness of any religious belief depends upon its definiteness, and that neither Jews nor Christians should in my judgment combine in any such way as to obscure the distinctiveness of their witness to their own beliefs. There is much that we can do together in combating religious and racial intolerance, in forwarding social progress and in bearing witness to those moral principles which we unite in upholding."

The representatives of the Council were able also to give the fullest assurance that to the best of their knowledge every effort had been made to avoid anything being done in the Council's name which might seem to imply any endorsement of a policy of "religious indifferentism." They suggested, however, that the formal adoption of certain procedural safeguards might serve not only as a protection against any such misunderstanding in the future, but also as a possible basis for renewed Roman Catholic participation in the Council's work.

It was therefore decided to hold over the publication of the printed Annual Report for the year 1954 pending further clarification of these matters. Accordingly a verbal report was presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting which had been postponed from December to March. Since it is understood that the matter is still under consideration by the Holy Office, however, it has been decided to publish the following report of the Council's activities in the promotion of good human relations during the years 1954 and 1955 in anticipation of the Annual General Meeting for 1955.

\* \* \*

While the period under review has seen an appreciable lessening of tension in the over-all international situation it is encouraging to find, judging by the increasing demands on the various services offered by this Council, that many people see in this situation a challenge to still greater endeavours in the direction of education for human understanding.

So far as our country is concerned there are clear indications of a growing rather than a diminishing need for such education. The ever-

increasing number of coloured workers arriving in this country, particularly from the West Indies, raises new problems in matters connected with race relationships and inter-racial attitudes. There is also the ever present danger that in times of economic anxiety certain sections of the community may begin to find outlets for their sense of frustration in "scapegoat hunting."

But our concern in this report is not with gloomy prognostication but with an encouraging record of useful work in a number of important fields.

## MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Undoubtedly the most significant development in this department of the Council's work during the past two years has been the institution of an annual lectureship in memory of Sir Robert Waley Cohen, a leading member of the Council and for ten years its Honorary Treasurer. Shortly before he died in 1952 Sir Robert expressed the view that although the Council's work was now well established in several sections of the life of the community it was still necessary to bring the thought and experience of representative leaders to bear on the general problem of tolerance.

It was hoped that the lectureship established in his name might serve as a practical contribution to this end and there can be no doubt as to the outstanding value of the two lectures so far delivered, from this point of view. Indeed the two lecturers, Sir Richard Livingstone in 1954 and Professor Arthur Goodhart in 1955, have set a standard which it will be difficult to surpass. Sir Richard's subject was "Tolerance in Theory and in Practice" and Professor Goodhart's "Tolerance and the Law." Moreover the auspices under which the lectures were delivered—Lord Samuel presided at the first and the Lord Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Kilmuir at the second, served only to emphasise the importance of the occasions.

Commenting on the second of the lectures *The Times*, in a leading article published on October 11th last, referred to tolerance as a "late-comer" among "the cardinal civil virtues professed by the west in practice or ideal," and as one which "shares with the other members of this company the drawback that it is easier to invoke than define." The article then went on to say that "the foundation of an annual lecture on



tolerance as a memorial to Sir Robert Waley Cohen ensures that at least once a year the subject shall receive the attention it deserves."

The Council has continued, in pursuance of its general policy to send speakers, lecturers and discussion teams to a wide range of smaller and larger meetings and of conferences held under the auspices of Churches, Synagogues and social and cultural organisations. We have also made increasing use of visual and aural aids: films, filmstrips and dialogue recordings. In this connection we are particularly indebted to Mr. J. Arthur Rank who has presented the Council with a copy of a feature film *Prejudice*, which has long since proved itself an excellent means of getting our message over to audiences of all kinds.

Under this heading also reference must be made to the splendid series of meetings arranged by the London Society of Jews and Christians which is affiliated to the Council. These meetings, which have been as remarkable for the distinction of the lecturers as for the size and interest of the audiences they have attracted, have also provided readers of *Common Ground* with a series of fascinating and authoritative articles on such subjects as the relationship between God and Men, the significance of Biblical prophecy for our time, or school and family life.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Council's main publication, *Common Ground*, has been maintained with great success, and goes every two months not only to some 2,500 individual readers in this country but also to a steadily increasing number of schools, colleges and public libraries both at home and overseas. Although it is not the kind of magazine to produce a large response either from highly indignant or wildly excited readers we have been greatly encouraged by the appreciative comments that have reached us from people in many different walks of life, and that have appeared from time to time in the press.

We have, however, produced a number of *ad hoc* publications, including the two Robert Waley Cohen Memorial Lectures already mentioned, and a pamphlet entitled *Where Two Faiths Meet*, in which the General Secretary deals with the possibilities and limitations of Jewish-Christian co-operation. We have also published a second and revised edition of Mr. A. I. Polack's pamphlet, *Tolerance—can it be taught?* as well as of our Filmstrips, and one of the series of pamphlets on *Our East London*.



Our major venture in this field however has been the publication, under the title *History without Bias?* of a report by E. H. Dance on the Council's survey of history textbooks to which more detailed reference is made in the following section.

## EDUCATIONAL WORK

To the question which of all questions we are most frequently asked: "What is the Council of Christians and Jews and what is the nature of its work?" our almost invariable reply is that it is in the broad sense of the term an educational body concerned not merely to dispel wrong ideas but rather to encourage the growth of mutual understanding between members of different religious and racial groups.

### (i) TEXTBOOK SURVEYS

It was inevitable therefore that the Council should take an active interest in the textbooks currently in use in the schools of this country, particularly in the fields of history, geography and religious instruction. With the help of some 200 teachers drawn from schools of varying types in all parts of the country the Council has so far undertaken three textbook surveys; two of an exploratory character in relation to geography and religious instruction; and the third, the most ambitious project of this kind so far undertaken by the Council, or indeed, so far as we are aware, by any body in this country, in the field of history textbooks for the 11-15 age group.

The object of these surveys has been to discover whether the textbooks "accorded fair and adequate treatment to the different human groups within the nation—racial, national, social, cultural and religious—or whether, through inaccuracy, omission, exaggeration or unconscious bias, they tended to promote intolerant attitudes and to perpetuate misconceptions."

This is not the place to discuss or even to enumerate the findings of these enquiries. In the case of the history survey, however, the findings were published in September 1954 in a report already mentioned in these pages: *History without Bias?* This report was written by E. H. Dance, former Senior History Master of Wolverhampton Grammar School. "An enquiry like the present one," wrote Professor Herbert Butterfield in a Foreword to the report, "serves the cause of history

not in the inculcation of an ethical indifference, but in the widening of compassion—in fact that it provokes us to expand the effort of human understanding.” It is perhaps hardly surprising that, in the light of such commendation, the enquiry should have given rise to widespread interest in educational circles.

It is significant too that the Council's work in this field has had international repercussions in that Mr. A. I. Polack, the Council's Education Officer, was invited by UNESCO to provide a paper on the teaching of race relations in Great Britain for an “Expert Meeting on the Promotion of Teaching of Race Questions in Primary and Secondary Schools” which was held at UNESCO House in Paris in September 1955.

#### (ii) SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

For all its work on textbooks, however, the Council has never lost sight of the supreme importance of the personal influence of the teacher, whether in day school or Sunday school, or, in the case of Churches and Synagogues, of the minister of preacher.

Officers of the Council, therefore, have spent a good deal of time in regular visitation of teachers' training colleges and theological colleges, discussing with students ways in which, when they eventually take up their professional posts, they can help not merely in the elimination of prejudice and intolerance but also in the active promotion of healthy and creative inter-group attitudes.

Increasingly, too, we find ourselves being invited to send speakers to talk to sixth forms of Grammar and Secondary Schools, particularly under the heading of “Current Affairs,” and no speaker can ever hope for a more stimulating response than from this particular type of audience.

Still more ambitious, in this particular field, have been the inter-school conferences of senior boys and girls from Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools which the Council has organised, sometimes in association with the Council for Education in World Citizenship. The most recent of these conferences was held in Manchester in July of this year, and was the subject of an enthusiastic article in the *Manchester Guardian*.

Another important aspect of the Council's work in the educational field is represented by its continuing membership of the Conference of Educational Associations. At the 1954 meeting of this Conference the speaker on the C.C.J. platform was Mr. H. P. D. Lee, Headmaster of

Winchester, whose address on "Education in Group Loyalties and its Dangers" proved to be one of the outstanding contributions to the study of the general theme of the Conference: "The Development of Loyalties."

All the work so far undertaken by the Council in this field, however, serves only to emphasise both the need and the opportunity for attempting far more than the resources at present at our disposal will permit. We have dealt here only with the broad outlines of our approach, but we can assure the readers of this report that under every heading there is a wealth of detail which, if it could be reported here, would disturb, challenge and, we hope, encourage.

## INDUSTRY

The Council's educational work both at the school and adult level is consciously directed towards the inculcation of such ideas and attitudes as may be helpful in the development and maintenance of sound group attitudes on the part of those who either are or are likely to be workers in industry and in commerce. Two preliminary meetings have also been held with representatives of management and labour, to consider ways in which the Council can be of more direct service in the development of good human relations in industry and commerce. It is anticipated that this side of the work will develop during the years ahead, and will cover not only Jewish-Christian relations, but problems associated with the increasing number of coloured workers arriving in this country from overseas.

## INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

During the past two years the Council has continued its policy of maintaining friendly but informal contact with "World Brotherhood" which was set up in 1950 by the American Conference of Christians and Jews. A representative of the Council attended the second General Assembly of World Brotherhood at Brussels in July 1955 as an observer.

Another important development in this field has been the renewing of contacts with a number of European Councils of Christians and Jews, representatives of which met informally at Paris in December 1954 and later at Saarbrücken in May 1955. At this second meeting it was agreed to establish an informal *centre de liaison* for the exchange of information between the European Councils which at present exist in France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the Saar. A Netherlands Council is at present in process of formation. Through the generosity of the Saarland Council this liaison centre is at present housed in Saarbrücken.

## LOCAL COUNCILS

In spite of many difficulties and not a few discouragements our friends in Bristol, Cardiff, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, as well as in Hampstead and Willesden have continued to render valiant service. A number of public meetings have been arranged, with distinguished speakers, and many of our Local Councils have provided from among their own members speakers for schools, Church and Synagogue groups, and other meetings. In these activities good use has been made of filmstrips and gramophone recordings. In addition, the committee and other meetings of the Local Councils have provided representative leaders of both Christian and Jewish communities with valuable opportunities for personal contact.

Moreover, recent happenings in Birmingham, where there have been several instances of publicly displayed anti-Jewish propaganda, have led to an attempt to revive a local Council which ceased some time ago to be active.

But here, as in every other department of our work, there is so much that we could do and that needs doing if only the resources at our disposal were more adequate. And that seems the appropriate point at which to go on to that section of the report which deals with . . .

## MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

In view of the uncertainty with regard to possible renewal of Roman Catholic participation in the Council's work there has been no special drive to enrol new members during the past year. We are happy, however, to report that apart from the withdrawal of the former Roman Catholic members, membership of the Council, both full and associate, has remained reassuringly constant. Among those who have recently accepted invitations to become full Members of the Council are: the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Kilmuir, the Rt. Hon. the Earl Jowitt, Professor Arthur L. Goodhart, General Wilfred Kitching of the Salvation Army, the Rev. Dr. Hugh Martin, C.H., the Rev. E. Benson Perkins, the Rev. E. C. Urwin, the Rev. C. Kingsley Williams and Dr. A. E. Morgan, the Warden of Toynbee Hall.

We are also happy and deeply grateful to be able to report that financial support has been well maintained, as will be seen from the Accounts for the years 1953-54 and 1954-1955 which are printed on the following pages. In this respect we have been particularly fortunate in the number of our subscribers who have entered into seven year

covenants with the Council. We are grateful too for continuing and indeed increasing help from many national commercial and industrial firms.

But for all that we have been able to do during the past two years, our over-all impression is of its inadequacy in relation both to the need and to the opportunity for the existence and work of such a body as the Council of Christians and Jews. We are grateful beyond words for the help and encouragement that have enabled us to carry on during a particularly anxious period in the Council's life. But we are confident also that the more widely our work becomes known the more general is likely to be the support it attracts.

**THE COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS**  
**BALANCE SHEET, 31st MARCH, 1954**

[illegible]

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us the above balance sheet and the annexed income and expenditure account give a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs as at 31st March, 1954, and of its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for our audit. In our opinion the Council has kept proper books of account and the above mentioned accounts are in agreement therewith.

3 FREDERICK'S PLACE,  
OLD JEWRY,  
LONDON, E.C.2

20th May, 1954

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.  
*Honorary Auditors*

# INCOME EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1954

1953	£	s.	d.	1953	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:				CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED:			
Salaries, helpers' expenses and contributions to provident funds	4,126	7	4	Subscriptions from associate members	714	778	12 8
Stationery	304	285	12 9	Subscriptions under seven-year covenants	3,961	4,338	15 11
Rent and office expenses	595	493	16 9	Other subscriptions and donations	2,573	2,619	9 7
Travelling, hospitality and motor car expenses	281	393	17 6	Mansion House dinner appeal donations	3,390	—	—
Postage	165	170	0 0	Special functions	—	70	2 4
Telephone	107	111	19 0	Grants for services	70	70	0 0
Newspapers, press cuttings and library	173	86	7 4				
Typing services and translations	15	7	6 5	SALES OF PUBLICATIONS AND ADVERTISING REVENUE			
Bank charges and stamp duty	16	10	5 4	Interest on Deposit Account	119	154	5 9
Insurance	3	4	9 3	Balance, being excess of expenditure over income for the year, carried to balance sheet	(92)	25	1 0
						117	6 2
TO AFFILIATION FEES	10	6,256	1 8				
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:		9	19 6				
General	335	250	8 9				
Service of speakers	—	133	6 2				
Mansion House dinner	1,254	—	—				
		383	14 11				
PUBLICATIONS AND LITERATURE:							
Common Ground printing	484	503	9 2				
Common Ground envelopes	38	24	0 0				
Common Ground postage	94	112	10 0				
		639	19 2				
Other publications	84	194	14 6				
East London Exhibition	15	62	6 8				
		897	0 4				
7 TEXT-BOOK SURVEY		193	11 5				
SUBSCRIPTIONS TRANSFERRED TO LOCAL COUNCILS	231	214	10 7				
AMOUNT WRITTEN OFF PREMIUM ON LEASE	47	46	18 8				
DEPRECIATION:							
Office furniture and equipment	24	26	11 4				
Film equipment	27	33	5 0				
Motor car	—	112	0 0				
		171	16 4				
TRANSFER TO GENERAL RESERVE	2,400	—	—				
	£10,735	£8,173	13 5		£10,735	£8,173	13 5



**THE COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS**  
**BALANCE SHEET, 31st MARCH, 1955**

[illegible]

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us the above balance sheet and the annexed income and expenditure account give a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs as at 31st March, 1955, and of its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for our audit. In our opinion the Council has kept proper books of account and the above mentioned accounts are in agreement therewith.

3 FREDERICK'S PLACE,  
OLD JEWRY,  
LONDON, E.C.2

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.  
*Honorary Auditors*

24th May, 1955

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1955

1954	£	s.	d.
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:</b>			
	Salaries, helpers' expenses and contributions to provident funds ...		
4,692	4,957	16	0
286	282	13	4
494	504	7	5
	Rent and office expenses ...		
	Travelling, hospitality and motor car expenses ...		
394	544	8	1
170	120	18	5
112	120	16	10
86	79	11	4
	Newspapers, press cuttings and library ...		
7	9	9	0
10	8	1	4
	Translations ...		
	Bank charges and stamp duty ...		
4	3	2	0
	Insurance ...		
10	6,703	3	9
	<b>AFFILIATION FEES</b> ...		
	9 19 6		
<b>CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:</b>			
250	283	5	2
133	149	16	10
	General ...		
	Service of speakers ...		
<b>PUBLICATIONS AND LITERATURE:</b>			
503	500	19	6
	Common Ground printing ...		
24	28	16	0
113	112	10	0
	Common Ground envelopes ...		
	Common Ground postage ...		
195	642	5	6
62	311	6	3
	Other publications ...		
	East London Exhibition ...		
194	392	0	1
	<b>TEXT-BOOK SURVEY</b> ...		
215	183	6	10
	SUBSCRIPTIONS TRANSFERRED TO LOCAL COUNCILS ...		
	AMOUNT WRITTEN OFF PREMIUM ON LEASE ...		
47	46	18	8
<b>DEPRECIATION:</b>			
27	26	11	4
33	35	5	11
112	164	0	0
	Office furniture and equipment ...		
	Film equipment ...		
	Motor cars ...		
	225	17	3
	<b>£8,981 8 8</b>		

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 THE RT. HON. THE EARL JOWITT.  
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 SIR ERIC MACPADYEN.  
 THE RT. HON. LORD MCGOWAN, K.B.E.  
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*Printed in Great Britain by*  
**THE SHARON PRESS**  
*31, Fumival Street, London, EC4*